

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP

Minutes of Meeting

February 5th, 2019

SPY POND COMMITTEE

Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Brad Barber, Russ Cohen, Harriet Noyes, Bob Noyes, Jacob Friis, Stroker Rogovin, Bill Eykamp, Brian Battuello, Frances Ross, Jane Howard and Steve Ricci

Facilitator: Brad Barber

Minutes: Ross/Battuello

Next meeting: March 5, 2018

- The **minutes** of the meeting held January 8th, 2019 were reviewed and approved.
- Trails Day, May 11th -- To improve the path along Route 2 by picking up trash, vista pruning, and removal of invasive species with help from volunteers and the AMC conservation and trees committees. This year we plan to plant shrubs and trees to control erosion. The Town will be planting grey and silky dogwood at the north end of the pond so this species is already approved. Russ Cohen discussed other possibilities including edible natural species such as beech plums or alder (makes a good barrier) and blueberries. Joan Entwistle and Kristine Atkinson will help choose what and where to plant. Stroker suggested 50 plants close to the path. We need to contact MassDOT and the Conservation Commission for permits and potential funding. Stroker, Joan, and Kristine will make a planting plan.
- Ice Safety – There was a discussion to put a notice in the Advocate to remind people that the ice does not freeze evenly. Brian will look into finding some boilerplate text. The discussion was started because someone fell through the ice even though experienced and well prepared, and was in for 15 minutes before the Fire Department rescued him.
- Sand Bar – A meeting to discuss a dredging plan will be held on Thursday February 28th. The current plan for the sand bar will be presented.
- Water Bodies Group – Brad went to a meeting Thursday January 31st. The budget was discussed. The plan is to probably not do Sonar in the spring, saving \$40K. The funds will be moved to next year. Water treatment will be carried out mid summer and an aquatic plant survey afterwards. The Conservation Commission report was distributed. A goal is to reduce dependence on herbicide.
- 604(b) grant – \$300K/year is available in a fund for lake management. Brad suggested requesting \$50-\$60K for a full survey of the pond including water nutrient budgets, sediment sampling and dissolved oxygen. The last such surveys were in 1999 and 1982. The grant requires no matching funds, just volunteer work. The RFP will be released in mid February, proposals due at the end of March, awards made in August, funding in the fall. It was suggested that we get hints from faculty at Tufts who have relevant experience.
- Ecofest – The theme this year is energy conservation, so less relevant and no need to attend.
- Signage – The quality is low, we need to find better graphics. David Kopans could be asked to make signs.
- No new business apart from a mention that Emily Sullivan had seen a great black backed seagull on the ice.